

Excellence In Volunteer Policing

Reserve Corps Division

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Reserve Corps Division

Strategic Services Bureau

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Washington, DC

COPS Conference Volunteer Workshop
August 1, 2011



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Outline

- What is a Reserve Officer?
- Who are Reserve Officers?
- What do Reserve Officers do?
- Eligibility
- History in Brief
- Demographics
- Initial Training
- Professional Development Training
- Assignments
- Details
- Being a Volunteer Police Officer: Some Issues and Obligations
- Managing Volunteers: Issues for Police Administrators
- Questions



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What is a Reserve Officer?

- Volunteer (i.e., uncompensated) law enforcement officer
- Complements career members (**NOT a substitute**)
- Two levels:
 - **Level I** – Fully trained and armed;
Same powers and responsibilities as full-time officers *while on duty*
 - **Level II** – Fully trained, not armed;
Similar powers and responsibilities as full-time officers *while on duty*



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Who are Reserve Officers?

- Small business managers
- Federal, State and Local Government officials
- Attorneys
- University professors
- Self-employed individuals
- Your neighbors
- Anyone committed to serving the District of Columbia's residents, businesses, and visitors



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What do Reserve Officers do?

- Routine and targeted patrols
- ‘*Signature Activity*’ –
RCFI: Reserve Corps Focused Initiative
- Community outreach
- Details and special events
- Special assignments depending on Department’s needs and availability of personnel, e.g. financial crimes, homeland security



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Eligibility

- U.S. citizen
- 21 years of age
- High school diploma or GED
- Valid driver's license from jurisdiction of residence
 - *not under suspension or revocation*
- Willingness to meet training and service requirements
- Recommended by Reserve Corps Administrator and approved by Chief of Police
- Successful completion of at least 60 semester-hour credits from an accredited post-secondary educational institution
- Successful completion of same entrance screening required of full-time officers:
 - *Written test (national police officer entrance exam)*
 - *Background suitability investigation*
 - *Medical and psychological examinations*



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History in Brief

- 
- 1950 - Authorized by Congress (P.L. 81-686) and created by Commissioner's Order 502.757/6
- 1951** - Corps first used to prevent false alarms on Halloween Night
- 1961 - Corps augments full-time force for the 1st time: 250 Reserve Officers work JFK inauguration
- 1968 - Corps deploys in response to demonstrations and periods of civil unrest in the city

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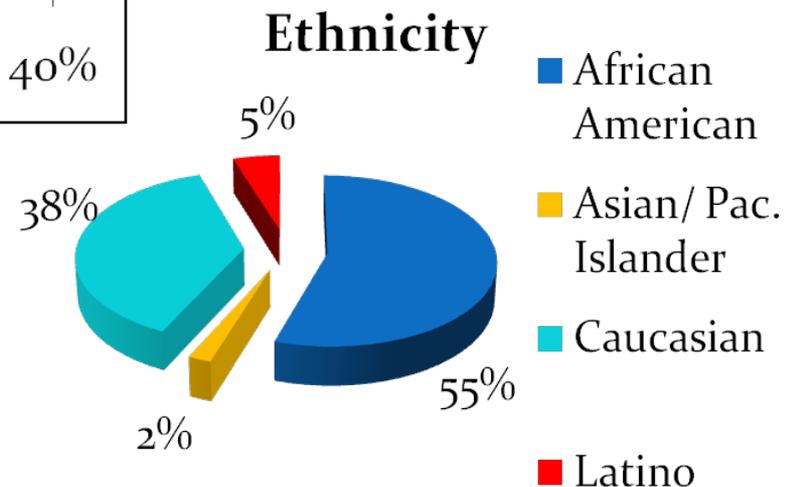
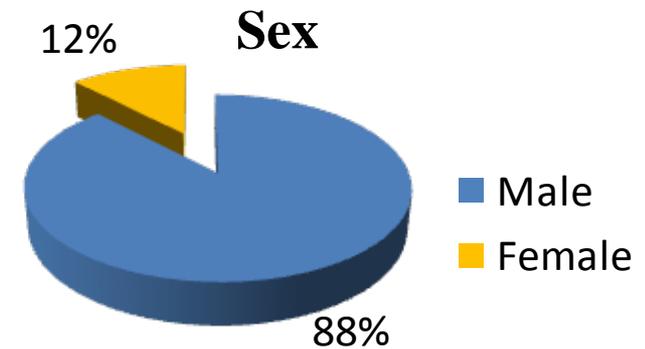
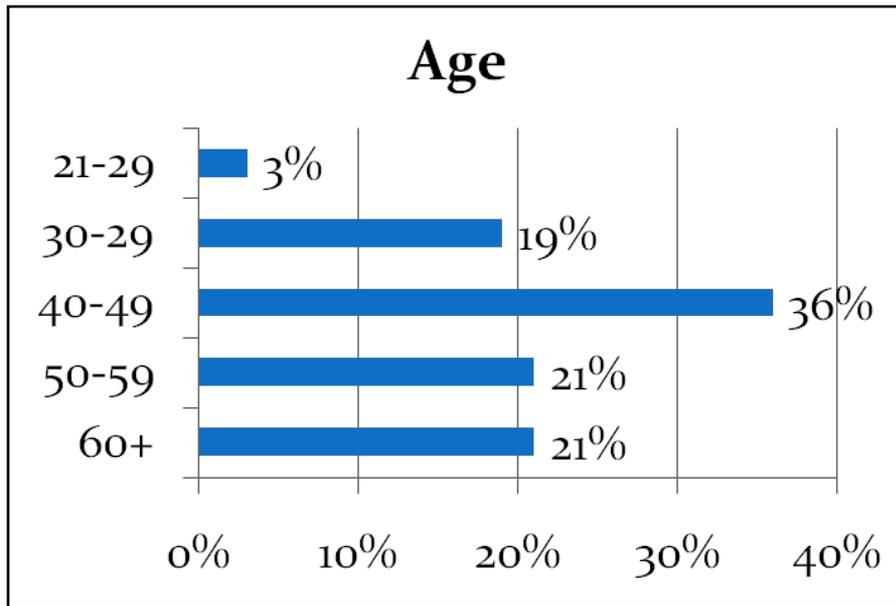
History in Brief

- 1970 – Chief Jerry Wilson issues uniforms to Reserve Officers; allows them to attend Academy and range training
- 1988 – First class of armed (Level I) Reserve Officers graduates
- 1995 – Corps expands from patrol to all areas of MPD
- 2007 – Second class of armed (Level I) Reserve Officers graduates
- 2010 - Launch of RCFI's –
Reserve Corps Focused Initiatives



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Demographics



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Initial Training

- Level II Training Program
 - Substantially the same as for full-time officers
(Minus some topics applicable only to full-time officers)
 - Same material
 - Same instructional standards
- With qualifying prior law enforcement experience, a customized Level I Training Program may be made available



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Professional Development Training

- The same Professional Development Training as for full-time officers is required for Reserve Corps members, according to rank, but offered on weekends
- Management training for officials



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Assignments

- Upon completion of initial training, Reserve Officers are assigned to a Police District
- Following qualifying experience, they may be assigned to specialized units, such as:
 - Harbor
 - Aviation
 - Financial Crimes
 - Missing Persons
 - Impaired Driver Unit



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Details



- National Security and Special Events
 - Presidential Inaugurations
 - State of the Union Addresses
 - Foreign Dignitary/State visits
- Disasters
 - September 11, 2001
 - Mt. Pleasant riots
 - Air Florida crash
 - Metrorail crashes

- IMF/World Bank Meetings
- Parades
- Marathons



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Being a Volunteer Police Officer: Some Issues and Obligations

- Willingness to accept authority in a “quasi military” organization
- Commitment of time to regular duty obligations
- Ability to respond to call-outs at short notice
- Participation in professional development programs and promotion examinations
- Family acceptance and support of Reserve Officers
- Opportunities to combine new interests and challenges with community service



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Managing Volunteers: Issues for Police Administrators

Recognize the following...

- Volunteers provide a wide range of benefits to the Police Department
 - Duty hours contributed **17,500 hrs, \$511,000 (2010)**
 - Special skills and experience
 - Linkages with the broader community
- Need for flexibility re: expectations of volunteer police officers
 - Different time frames for responding
 - Commitments may need to change at short notice

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Managing Volunteers: Issues for Police Administrators

Recognize the following...

- Need to be creative re:
 - Recruiting processes
 - Training programs
 - Budget support
- Need to acknowledge contributions in non-financial ways:
 - Awards
 - Community recognition
 - Support for conference attendance, etc.



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Metropolitan Police Department
Reserve Corps Division

Questions ?

